

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 5, 2014

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Kimberly Mireles  
Vice President, Environmental Services  
Luminant Power  
1601 Bryan Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

Re: Request for Action Plan regarding Luminant Power – Monticello Steam Electric Plant

Dear Ms. Mireles,

On September 18, 2012 the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its engineering contractors conducted a coal combustion residual (CCR) site assessment at the Luminant Power - Monticello Steam Electric Plant facility. The purpose of this visit was to assess the structural stability of the impoundments or other similar management units that contain "wet" handled CCRs. We thank you and your staff for your cooperation during the site visit. Subsequent to the site visit, EPA sent you a copy of the draft report evaluating the structural stability of the units at the Luminant Power - Monticello Steam Electric Plant facility and requested that you submit comments on the factual accuracy of the draft report to EPA. Your comments were considered in the preparation of the final report.

The final report for the Luminant Power - Monticello Steam Electric Plant facility is attached.

This report includes a specific condition rating for the CCR management units and recommendations and actions that our engineering contractors believe should be undertaken to ensure the stability of the CCR impoundments located at the Luminant Power - Monticello Steam Electric Plant facility. These recommendations are listed in Enclosure 1.

Since these recommendations relate to actions which could affect the structural stability of the CCR management units and, therefore, protection of human health and the environment, EPA believes their implementation should receive the highest priority. Therefore, we request that you inform us on how you intend to address each of the recommendations found in the final report. Your response should include specific plans and schedules for implementing each of the recommendations. If you will not implement a recommendation, please provide a rationale. Please provide a response to this request by **July 7, 2014**. Please send your response to:

Mr. Stephen Hoffman  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (5304P)  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

**If you are using overnight or hand delivery mail, please use the following address:**

Mr. Stephen Hoffman  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Two Potomac Yard  
2733 S. Crystal Drive  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, N-5838  
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

You may also provide a response by e-mail to [hoffman.stephen@epa.gov](mailto:hoffman.stephen@epa.gov), [dufficy.craig@epa.gov](mailto:dufficy.craig@epa.gov), [kelly.patrickm@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.patrickm@epa.gov) and [englander.jana@epa.gov](mailto:englander.jana@epa.gov).

You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information requested, in the manner described by 40 C. F. R. Part 2, Subpart B. Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent and only by means of the procedures set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the information when EPA receives it, the information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. If you wish EPA to treat any of your response as "confidential" you must so advise EPA when you submit your response.

EPA will be closely monitoring your progress in implementing the recommendations from this report and could decide to take additional action if the circumstances warrant.

You should be aware that EPA will be posting the report for this facility on the Agency website shortly.

Given that the site visit related solely to structural stability of the management unit, this report and its conclusions in no way relate to compliance with RCRA, CWA, or any other environmental law and are not intended to convey any position related to statutory or regulatory compliance.

Please be advised that providing false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements of representation may subject you to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Hoffman in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery at (703) 308-8413. Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Sincerely,  
/Barnes Johnson /, Director  
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Enclosures

**Luminant Power - Monticello Steam Electric Plant Recommendations (from the final assessment report)****CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the ratings defined in the USEPA Task Order Performance Work Statement (Satisfactory, Fair, Poor and Unsatisfactory), the information reviewed and the visual inspection, the overall condition of Bottom Ash Pond and the Scrubber Pond is considered to be **SATISFACTORY**. Acceptable performance is expected; however, some deficiencies exist that require repair.

Minor deficiencies include the following:

- ☐ Minor erosion gullies on the northern embankment of the Settling Pond
- ☐ Sloughing/sliding of material on the outboard slope of the northern embankment of the North Pond.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of our visual assessment and review of the available historical documents for the Bottom Ash Pond and the Scrubber Pond, O'Brien & Gere recommended further evaluation of embankment stability and continued monitoring of the two sloughs noted in the inspection on the northern embankment of the Settling Pond and at the northwest corner of the northern embankment of the North Pond. The additional slope stability analyses were performed by Golder Associates and reviewed by O'Brien & Gere in 2014.

**URGENT ACTION ITEMS**

None of the recommendations are considered to be urgent, since the issues noted above do not appear to threaten the structural integrity of the dam in the near term.

**LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT/MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

- ☐ Monitor/repair erosion on the northern embankment of the Settling Pond
- ☐ Monitor/repair sloughs/slides at the northwest corner of the North Pond, unless an investigation indicates that this material was placed against the embankment post-construction and that the stability of the embankment is not dependant on any stabilizing effects of the fill.
- ☐ NOTE: Luminant noted in their comments on the Draft Assessment Report that these improvement/maintenance items have been completed as part of their routine maintenance program.

**MONITORING AND FUTURE INSPECTION**

Daily visual inspections are reportedly performed and the results of annual detailed inspections have been recorded in inspection reports. Deficiencies noted during the annual inspections and in this CCW assessment report should be addressed in a timely manner to maintain dam integrity. Consideration should be given to development of an O&M Plan that would establish a firm schedule for operations, maintenance and inspection activities.

**RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF ACTION ITEMS**

The facility should address any items noted during visual inspections in a timely manner, depending on the severity and location of the deficiency. The regular inspection schedule should be maintained.